

- 5 -

Application No. 10/759,061
Amendment dated September 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2006

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1, 3 to 7 and 9 to 13 remain in the application.

Claims 1 to 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattick (U.S. Patent No. 3,420,484) in view of Shelton (U.S. Patent No. 2,238,348).

Reconsideration is expected on the following grounds.

Mattick discloses a table T having side members S and legs L. Each side member S has an upstanding portion 10, a top flange 11, a wider lower flange 12 with a depending flange 13 on its lower edge portion (see Fig. 2). From the above, it can be appreciated that Mattick's side members S have a configuration that is very different from that of the Applicant's cold-formed side profiles. Indeed, Mattick's top flange does not have any intumed lip or the like and flange 13 is bent outwardly away from top flange 11.

Mattick's side member configuration does not provide for as sturdy a construction as the Applicant's present invention. That is why Mattick needs corner gussets G at each corner in order to solidify the overall assembly of the table. The Applicant's industrial platform or elevated walkway does not require any corner gusset to interconnect the side members to the vertical support columns. The corners of the platform are solely formed by the side cold-formed profiles and the cold-formed support columns. No other interconnecting pieces are required. The cold-formed side profiles are directly bolted to the cold-formed support columns.

In contrast, Mattick's legs L are connected to the side members S via corner gussets G (see column 2, last line and column 3, lines 1 to 20). This is very different from the Applicant's claimed invention.

It is also respectfully submitted that Mattick discloses a table and nothing more. Mattick's table is not intended to be walked upon. The Applicant fails to see any motivation for mounting a handrail or guard rail about the perimeter of a table. This would completely change the nature of Mattick's invention. Mattick's invention would no longer be a table. It is also respectfully submitted that Shelton, the secondary reference relied upon by the Examiner,

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- 6 -

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relates to railings to prevent articles from falling from shelving and the like and not to guard rails to protect individuals from danger, as clearly intended by the Applicant's disclosure.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 1, and the claims depending thereon, are believed to be clearly patentable over the cited references.

Claims 11 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattick in view of Shelton and further in view of Diamond (U.S. Patent No. 2,733,897).

Claims 11 to 13 are patentable at least in view of their dependency on independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early action to this effect would be much appreciated.

Should there be any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application can be expedited.

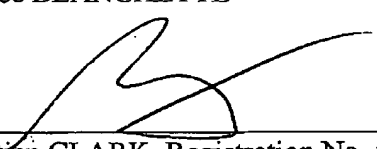
Respectfully submitted,

Maurice BLANCHETTE

By:

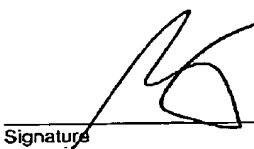
September 8, 2006

Date


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- 7 -

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
 Signature	<u>SÉBASTIEN CLARK, Reg. No. 56651</u> Name of person signing certification
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